

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
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CINCPAC

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, OREP (WOLFF, LESTER), MY
SUBJECT: CODEL WOLFF: NARCOTICS

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 0531

1. DURING THEIR TWO DAY STAY IN KUALA LUMPUR, THE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON NARCOTICS MEMBERS MET WITH THREE
SENIOR GOM OFFICIALS WITH NARCOTICS RESPONSIBILITIES.
THE JAN 16 MORNING BRIEFING WITH HOME AFFAIRS
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MINISTER TAN SRI GHAZALI SHAFIE DEALT MAINLY WITH
SECURITY MATTERS, BUT GHAZALI ALSO TOUCHED ON
NARCOTICS DURING THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSION
(REFTEL. HOWEVER, AFTER THE MEETING BROKE UP
AND THE CONGRESSMEN WENT ON TO ANOTHER BRIEFING,
SELECT COMMITTEE STAFF MEMBERS NELLIS AND VOGEL,
ALONG WITH DEA SAIC POWERS, ENGAGED GHAZALI AND

INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE TAN SRI HANIFF OMAR
IN A MORE DETAILED DISCUSSION OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT.
GHAZALI REITERATED THE GOM COMMITMENT TO THE
FIGHT AGAINST THE COUNTRY'S DOMESTIC NARCOTICS
PROBLEM AND SAID THAT THIS HAD "TOP PRIORITY" WITHIN
THE GOVERNMENT.

2. IN THE AFTERNOON OF JAN 16 THOSE MEMBERS OF
THE CODEL WITH A SPECIAL INTEREST IN NARCOTICS
MATTERS WERE BRIEFED BY DATUK JARJIS ALI, DIRECTOR
OF THE CENTRAL NARCOTICS BUREAU, AND RAIS YATIM,
DEPUTY HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER AND PRESIDENT OF THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AGAINST DRUG ABUSE (PEMADAM).
JARJIS' BRIEFING POINTED UP TO THE CODEL THAT,
WHILE THE GOM IS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT ITS DRUG
PROBLEM, ITS EFFORTS ARE HAMPERED BY THE LIMITED
RESOURCES WHICH CAN BE DEVOTED SOLELY TO NAR-
COTICS WORK AND BY A LACK OF COORDINATION AMONG
THE THREE AGENCIES WITH A DRUG ENFORCEMENT MANDATE.
IT WAS ALSO CLEAR FROM THE BRIEFING THAT THE GOM
IS STILL MORE CONCERNED ABOUT ITS DOMESTIC DRUG
PROBLEM THAN ABOUT ITS POSITION AS A TRANSIT AREA
FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING; THE CUSTOMS DEPART-
MENT, FOR INSTANCE, MAKES LITTLE EFFORT TO
INTERDICT THE FLOW OF NARCOTICS OUT OF THE COUNTRY,
FOCUSSING RATHER ON TRYING TO PREVENT ENTRY. RAIS'
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BRIEFING CONCENTRATED ON THE MALAYSIAN
EDUCATION, TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM.
RAIS OUTLINED THE REALISTIC AND SYSTEMATIC WAY
THE GOM IS APPROACHING DEMAND REDUCTION AND SPOKE
OF THE NEED FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING
TO AUGMENT THE LIMITED NUMBERS OF EXPERIENCED
PERSONNEL IN THESE AREAS.

3. COMMENT. THE MEMBERS OF THE CODEL TOOK ADVANTAGE
OF THEIR MEETINGS WITH GHAZALI, JARJIS AND RAIS TO
IMPRESS ON THE GOM THE IMPORTANCE THE USG ATTAACHE
TO INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE DRUG ENFORCE-
MENT FIELD. IT WAS PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY THAT
GHAZALI EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN NARCOTICS SINCE
HE IS THE GOM'S CHIEF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER AND
HE HAD NOT BEFORE GIVEN MUCH PUBLIC SUPPORT TO
DRUG ENFORCEMENT WORK (BUT INSTEAD HAS CONCENTRATED
ON THE SECURITY ROLE OF THE POLICE). THIS AND THE
SHIFT OF RAIS YATIM, WHO HAS BEEN THE MAIN GOM
SPOKESMAN ON NARCOTICS MATTERS, TO THE HOME
AFFAIRS MINISTRY (WHOSE POLICE CID IS THE MOST
EFFECTIVE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IN MALAYSIA)

ARE ENCOURAGING SIGNS THAT THE GOM MAY BE ABOUT
TO STEP UP AND BETTER COORDINATE ITS DRUG ENFORCE-
MENT EFFORTS.
MILLER

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